

SIERRA – SAN JOAQUIN NOXIOUS WEED ALLIANCE
Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Counties Weed Management Area

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 13, 2001

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 11th

Agenda Overview:

1. Introductions
 2. AB 1168 Updates
 3. Senate Bill 1740 – Updates and progress reports for each project/county
 4. Education Outreach – New Booklet, Workshop, Newspaper Articles
 5. Monitoring
 6. Items for next agenda
1. **Attendees:** Joanna Clines, US Forest Service; Wain Johnson, Mariposa UC Co-op Extension; Jenny Gabor, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Madera; Toby Horst, Sierra Resource Conservation District; Jeannine Koshear, Ca State Parks; Peggy Moore, US Geological Survey; Fred Rinder, Fresno County; Roscoe Rowney, CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection; Donald Mayeda, Madera Co. Ag. Department; Pat Gallegos, Mountain Press Auberry; Doug Edwards; Fresno County; Terry Sandridge, Sierra RCD/Southern Calif. Edison.
 2. **Minutes/Agenda Approval:** Changes were given to Jenny Gabor for the May meeting minutes and approved.. The final draft will be sent to Peggy Moore who will send them to the CDFA web master www.cdfa.ca.gov/wma as a PDF file.
 3. **AB-1168:** Peggy reported the National Park Service has staff time for mechanical control of yellow starthistle. They are coordinating with Wain in Cooperative Extension and his Ca. Youth Authority crews. The areas include Hwy 140 section of the Yosemite Park boundary to the center of El Portal, the old waste-water treatment plant. Mowing and hand-pulling methods were used adding to the 9 acres done previously. Other weeds such as mustard and tocalote are coming in where yellow starthistle is taken out. Overall the clearings are taking less time with persistent removal of new plants.
 4. **SB 1740 updates:** Carri Benefield sent out a copy of the format for invoicing. Due to end of fiscal year the funds must be rolled over to next fiscal year on June 15th.

Fresno County:

Invoices were submitted for April and May

Skeleton weed: All treatments are complete

Purple star-thistle: Tasks are complete for purple star thistle. A total of 14,500 acres on 2100 properties were covered. 500 plants were hand-pulled and bagged before they went to seed. The project has been invoiced. No other sites have been found with purple star thistle.

Tocalote/Yellow star-thistle: No mapping done in May due to focus on purple star thistle. Squaw Valley/Dunlap area will begin after June 13th. Little Pinoche area was done and found to be tocalote rather than yellow starthistle. Coalinga Mineral Springs area was 90% infested, 80% was tocalote. Pictures were taken because this could be a possible demonstration site. . Cal Trans should focus on Parkfield area off Hwy 198

PAT Group: Lanson Lane and Old Tollhouse Road were hand sprayed with Transline on 44 acres. Monitoring and re-spray are to be done in the same areas.

Madera County:

Don Mayeda reported the Madera County board passed the contract on Tuesday June 5th. An order is in for Transline to do chemical control on areas of the CDFA yellow star-thistle map showing infestations. Funds will need to be transferred to next fiscal year.

Jeannine Koshear reported Mike Smith has been using GPS to map Medusa Head near Sunset Ranch, Bigelow's and Macrothermia. Arundo mapping will follow. Jeannine will look into the possibility of Department of Water Resources having a map of Arundo in the San Joaquin Corridor.

Mariposa County:

Iberian star-thistle: Second spray and mapping should be done today.

Yellow star-thistle: Yellow star-thistle at Big Spring Hill has been mechanically removed with a weed whacker. CDF crews hand pulled weeds in Mariposa Creek and around the fairgrounds area. El Portal area has been completed.

Money will be rolled into the county public works from the co-op spraying program to do the roadsides.

Ann Mendershausen of Mariposa RCD has been working on mapping tocalote, Yellow star-thistle, Klamath weed, and Italian thistle.

Forest Service:

Four new interns will be working in the Merced River Canyon. Approximately 20 small infestations along Hwy 140 in addition to Sky Ranch up to Hwy 41 (Nelder Grove) have been worked on. Coordination will be made with Marty Acree a restoration work leader at Yosemite National Park.

3. Education Outreach:

Top 10 Noxious Weed Brochures are available. Toby Horst would like to send out 2000 to Fresno County ranchers along with the new Voluntary Rangeland and Foothill Water Quality Guidelines Brochure.

New Booklets with more technical info than the "Top 10" brochure will be developed using the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. A tentative meeting is set for July 11th to meet with Pam Rank. Peggy, Jenny, Joanna, and Wain have agreed to be on booklet committee.

Pat Gallegos, a representative from the Mountain Press Newspaper of the Prather, Auberry, Tollhouse area attended the meeting to collect information for writing a series of articles on star-thistle control methods.

June 14th at 7:00 PM a WMA public workshop will be held at the Bear Mountain Library in Squaw Valley (Hwy 180). Announcements have gone out in newspapers and flyers. The workshop will be funded with EQIP Education grant from Sierra RCD (Toby Horst).

5. Monitoring

Peggy will revise monitoring methods to include a narrower window at which point monitoring will be done and title them 2001 Methods.

6. **Future Agenda Items:** SB 1740 next years proposals,
Available quantities of Top 10 brochures

Emails to expect: Date for Fresno County Weed ID tour given by Dennis Griffin

- To be in WMA Web site:**
1. SB-1740 proposal (31 pages)
 2. AB-1168
 2. Meeting Minutes dating back to April 1998
 3. Monitoring Standards (revised by Peggy)
 4. Brochures
 5. Directions and contact (Joanna) to meeting
 6. Workshop, meeting and important dates
 7. Additions to CDFA calendar with all meetings and events